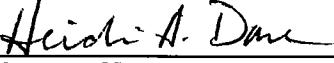


CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being filed electronically with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the below date:

Date: March 3, 2010 Name: Heidi A. Dare, Reg. No. 50,775 Signature: 

Attorney Docket No.: 12706-21
Client Reference: P200201661 US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Bjarne L. Christensen et al.)
Serial No.: 10/536,535) Examiner: Aaron M. Dunwoody
Filing Date: February 28, 2006) Group Art Unit No.: 3679
For: CONNECTING PIECE FOR A) Confirmation No.: 9902
TUBING)

**REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION OF REFERENCES
PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Upon review of the above-captioned file, Applicants' records indicate that no initialed Forms PTO-1449 have been received from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. However, Applicants have submitted four Information Disclosure Statements (IDS), complete with Forms PTO-1449, in this application. The initial IDS was filed with the application by Express Mail. The subsequent IDSs were filed by the "Certificate of Mailing Procedure" under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8 (The "Certificate of Mailing" stamps were signed by Heidi A. Dare).

Further discussion with Examiner Dunwoody indicated that the Forms PTO-1449 were not received by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. In the February 26, 2010

telephone call with Applicants' representative Heidi Dare, SPE Daniel Stodola said to submit evidence of submission of Forms PTO-1449 and to resend copies of the Forms PTO-1449 without references. Accordingly, Applicants attach at Tabs A – D the following documents:

Tab A: Information Disclosure Statement, Form PTO-1449, and transmittal letter submitted May 26, 2005, and PTO-stamped-received white postcard;

Tab B: Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, Form PTO-1449, and transmittal letter submitted July 14, 2005, and PTO-stamped-received white postcard;

Tab C: Second Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, Form PTO-1449, and transmittal letter submitted March 24, 2006;

Tab D: Third Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, Form PTO-1449, and transmittal letter submitted April 18, 2006, and PTO-stamped-received white postcard.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter and consider the references listed in the four above-referenced Forms PTO-1449.

Applicants believe that no fees are due in connection with the filing of this request. However, the Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency associated with the filing of this request to a deposit account, as authorized in the Transmittal accompanying this request.

Attachments: Tabs A, B, C, and D

Respectfully submitted,



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